DECLASSIFIED E.O. 12958

Department of State TELEGRAM

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 /060 W
------------------057669 0101567Z /64
R 3112077Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5144

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 2379

E.O. 11652 GDS
TAGS SHUM, AR
SUBJECT: MEETING WITH MOTHERS OF THE PLAZA DE MAYO

1. AMBASSADOR MET WITH DELEGATION OF MOTHERS OF THE PLAZA DE MAYO ON MARCH 27 FOR A TOUR DE HORIZON ON THE DISAPPEARANCE ISSUE. THE MOTHERS EMPHASIZED THEIR CONTINUING ANGUISH THAT THE GOVERNMENT REFUSES TO INFORM THEM OF THE WHEREABOUTS OF THEIR CHILDREN. THEY POINTED OUT THAT THE PEN PRISONERS LISTS WERE OF NO HELP AS THEY CONTAINED ALMOST ALL KNOWN PRISONERS AND VERY FEW "DESAPARECIDOS." THE MOTHERS PRESENTED THE AMBASSADOR WITH A LIST OF TEN CHILDREN BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN BORN AFTER THEIR MOTHERS DISAPPEARED. THE MOTHERS INDICATED THAT THEIR CONCERNS ARE AGGRAVATED BY INFORMAL ASSURANCES THEY HAVE RECEIVED FROM MILITARY OFFICERS THAT THEIR CHILDREN ARE ALIVE AND WELL. THEY ASKED FOR EMBASSY SUPPORT TO FORCE THE GOA TO RELEASE INFORMATION REGARDING SECRET PRISONERS.

2. THE MOTHERS QUERIED WHETHER THE SALE OF T-34 TRAINER AIRCRAFT TO ARGENTINA REPRESENTED A CHANGE IN US POLICY.

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THE AMBASSADOR REPLIED THAT THIS SALE HAD BEEN NEGOTIATED

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LONG AGO AND SHOULD NOT BE SEEN AS A NEW HUMAN RIGHTS SIGNAL HERE.

3. THE MOTHERS ASKED IF THE EMBASSY HAD ANY INFORMATION REGARDING THE WHEREABOUTS OF THE DISAPPEARED FRENCH NUNS AND THE OTHER SUPPORTERS OF THE MOTHERS GROUP WHO DISAPPEARED IN SPETEMBER 1977. THE AMBASSADOR REPLIED NEGATIVELY.

4. IN CONCLUDING, THE MOTHERS THANKED THE AMBASSADOR, THE EMBASSY AND THE USGS SUPPORT IN THEIR EFFORTS TO FIND THEIR MISSING CHILDREN.
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